

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

NEWS FLASHES

December 1,

1938

HELP CELEBRATE THE GALLERY'S FIFTH BIRTHDAY!

The month of December marks the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Gallery. The five years have been a period of progress and advancement, especially in the fields of educational activities and additions to the permanent collection by purchases and gifts. Today no museum in the country offers more facilities than does our Gallery for the appreciation and understanding, for children and adults alike, of the beautiful objects housed in the finest museum building of the world. Wise purchasing in a number of fields and generous gifts have maintained the high standard of the collections set at the time of the opening and it is the consensus of opinion that our Gallery now ranks fifth in the United States. This is an accomplishment of which every citizen of Kansas City and the Middle West should be justly proud.

The week of December 4th-11th has been designated as "Visit Your Gallery Week". The Gallery will be open every day of that week, including Monday, without an admission charge. The usual Wednesday Evening opening will be observed from seven to ten on December 7th. On that evening there will be a lecture on the additions to the collections during the five years which will also be without charge. It is hoped that the attendance for this week will rival that of the time of the opening when on one day alone, over 10,000 people visited the Gallery.

FIVE YEARS OF COLLECTING: In celebration of the anniversary, the Loan Galleries will be installed with an exhibition of the most important purchases and gifts of the past five years. The high level of our collecting will be well exemplified by this group. From the department of paintings among the purchases the following will be included: Portrait of a Lady by Copley, Still Life by Fyt, Mr. and Mrs. Custance, by West, Portrait of a Gentleman by Gerard, After the Bath by Peale, Perfect Harmony by Pater, Henri II by Clouet, St. Francis by Lorenzo Monaco, St. Lawrence by Cano, Saint Anthony by Bosch, Harvest Scene by Breughel, Annunciation by Starnina, Altarpiece of the Resurrection by Engelbrechtsen, Musical Angels, School of Avignon, Lina Campineau by Manet, Monte Sainte Victoire by Cezanne, Reverie by Gauguin, and Head of a Peasant by Van Gogh.

Objects from the Near and Far East will include: T'ang Altar Front; Sui Bodhisattva; Lacquer Figure of Kuan Yin; Signed T'zu Chou Vase; Pre-Khmer Figure; Ghandaran Figure; Bronze Siamese Head; Siva and Parvati Frieze; Chinese Painting "Mountain Landscape"; Figure of a Buddhist Priest. The Classical field will be represented by: Greek Torso of Satyr, Pair of Greek Boxers, Fayum Portrait, Greek Archaic Head, Head of Hercules, Egyptian Hawk, Egyptian Bread-Maker, Egyptian Relief of a Boat, and a Coptic Textile, one of the largest and finest in the world. The Saint John by Tiziana Aspetti and the Gothic Bust of Saint George will represent the field of European sculpture.

Important prints and drawings will be hung in Gallery XIX and the drawings will include: Self-Portrait by Whistler, St. Sebastian by Guercino, Study of Christ by Perugino, Masquerade by Longhi, Studies of Figures by Manet, Nude Study by Bandinelli, and Studies of Women by Van Der Velde. In the field of prints, very important subjects by Pollaiuolo, Mantegna, Van Meckenem, Mocetto, Master of the Shuttlecock, Durer, Rembrandt, and Goya will be featured.

Gallery XVI will be installed with decorative arts objects, largely the gift of Mrs. William H. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Burnap, Mrs. Jacob L. Loose, and others. The contemporary American Paintings and Watercolours presented by the Friends of Art will all be hung in Gallery XIV. Galleries XXIX and XXX will be installed with gifts in the field of 19th and 20th century American Paintings,

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presented by Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Jones, Mrs. Massey Holmes, Mrs. James P. Townley, The Degree of Honor Protective Association, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph de S. Childs, Miss Mary Harper Bogie, Mrs. James Love, Mr. George S. Ritchey, Mr. Irwin Ritchey, Mrs. Cora Bradley, Mrs. Martha Haines, and the Board of Education.

These exhibitions will be the most interesting ever held in the Gallery. They will be an indication of the growing importance of the permanent collection and the interest and generosity of many donors. It is hoped that everyone in Kansas City will feel that he must see this Anniversary Exhibition.

1,000,000th VISITOR AWARD: The attendance at the Gallery since the opening is approaching one million and it is figured that the one millionth visitor will click through the entrance turnstiles sometime during "Visit Your Gallery Week". Friends of the Gallery have contributed a fund for the celebrations, and the lucky visitor who is number 1,000,000 will be presented with a \$50.00 cash award. In addition, an award of \$25.00 will be presented to the visitor who is number 1,025,000. It is anticipated that this attendance will be reached during the anniversary month.

CANDID CAMERA CONTEST: During "Visit Your Gallery Week", December 4th-11th, camera enthusiasts will be allowed to bring their cameras into the Gallery for the first time. A contest of the "shots" taken will be held with the following rules: All prints must be not smaller than 4" x 5" or larger than 11" by 14" and they must not be hand-coloured. They must be submitted not later than 5 P.M. December 15th. They will be judged by a committee and a first prize of \$15.00, a second prize of \$10.00, and four honorable mentions will be awarded. All prints receiving prizes will become the property of the Gallery and sometime in 1939 an exhibition of the submitted prints will be held.

MASTERPIECE OF THE MONTH: The high point of the celebration of the Gallery's Fifth Birthday is the announcement of what must be considered the most important acquisition since the opening. It is a Standing Egyptian Figure of a Man of heroic size, dating from the Vth Dynasty (2500 B.C.). Carved in cream coloured limestone, there are still traces of red pigment on the flesh areas. Unfortunately the head and the feet are missing, as is usually the case with sculptures of this period, but the magnificent stride of the figure is intact and the sensitive modelling about the shoulders and stomach signify the work of one of the finest sculptors of the dynasty. It comes from a tomb or mastaba in the vicinity of Gizeh or Sakkara.

Monumental Egyptian Sculpture is one of the rarest of objects in the field of art today. Although great numbers must have been executed, much of it was destroyed in the rifling of tombs and at present the government will not allow it to be exported from the country. There are only three similar figures in the Cairo Museum and a few in America. Our Sculpture was one of a group and the female figure is now in the Worcester Museum.

This new accession is too large to go in the Masterpiece Room and will be given the place of honor on the East Wall of the central loan gallery. Forty-five hundred years old, it will be the chief host of the Gallery's Fifth Anniversary.

LECTURES: Harold Woodbury Parsons will give two lectures during the anniversary celebration on the objects acquired by purchase during the past five years and their relative importance in their fields. On Wednesday Evening, December 7th, he will speak on the European Sculpture added to the collection and on Wednesday Evening, December 14th, on the Paintings. Both lectures will be held at 8:00 P.M. in the Atkins Auditorium and there will be no admission charge to the Gallery or to the lectures.

On the Wednesday Evenings of December 21st and 28th, the Gallery will be open as usual, but there will be no lectures in the Atkins Auditorium. The Series on Italian Painting will be resumed on January 4th when Mr. Gardner will speak on Florentine Painters of the first quarter of the 15th Century.

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FRIENDS OF ART: The Selections Committee will present the paintings to be voted on for a presentation to the Gallery on Friday Evening, December 9th, at 8:00 P.M. in the Atkins Auditorium. It is hoped that every member will make a special effort to be present that evening. The paintings will be exhibited in Gallery XIII on December 1st and will remain on view until the ninth.

The Study Class will meet at 11:00 A.M. in the Library on Wednesday, December 14th, and the subject will be a discussion of the outstanding objects acquired during the first five years. Two weeks later on the 28th, the subject will be the History of Glass in Europe, illustrated by objects in the permanent collection.

JAPANESE PRINTS: A new exhibition of Japanese prints and costumes has been installed in Gallery XXIV, bringing our historical series of Japanese Print exhibitions to the fourth phase in the development of the print. The artists represented were all pupils of the masters of the preceeding phase shown last month. Most of these prints were made between 1800 and 1865 and there is beginning to appear a certain amount of decline from the heights reached by the earlier masters. This fourth period is, however, marked by the appearance of several men whose work stands out above the general decline. The work of four of these men is included in the exhibition. Their names: Toyoharu, Toyokuni, Kunidasa, and Yeishi. The costumes shown are of the same period as the prints and similar robes can be found on the women appearing in the prints.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS: The Sunday afternoon concerts for December will be particularly interesting ones in view of the anniversary and the Christmas season. On December 4th, the Kansas City Federal Concert Orchestra will present a special program, featuring the Mendelssohn Italian Symphony. The program of December 11th will be a most fitting one, as it will be presented by the Mary Atkins Memorial Choir of the First Christian Church. This choir was endowed by Mrs. Mary Atkins whose generous gift made possible the Atkins Museum and for whom the Atkins Auditorium is named. On December 18th, Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota will present its monthly concert, with music appropriate to the Christmas season.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

- Sun., Dec. 4 thru Sun., Dec. 11 - Fifth Birthday Celebration -
Gallery open all week, including Monday, without
admission charge. Special Anniversary Exhibition
of Five Years of Collecting opens Sunday, Dec. 4.
- Sun., Dec. 4 , 3:30 - Auditorium - Kansas City Federal Concert
Orchestra
- Tues., " 6 , 9:15 - Gallery Broadcast, Station KCMO - The Egyptian
Figure of a Man
- Wed., " 7 , 8:00 - Auditorium - Lecture - European Sculpture Ac-
quired Since Opening - Harold W. Parsons
- Fri., " 9 , 8:00 - Auditorium - Friends of Art Annual Meeting -
Please use Rockhill Entrance
- Sun., " 11, 3:30 - Auditorium - Mary Atkins Memorial Choir of the
First Christian Church
- Tues., " 1 , 9:15 - Gallery Broadcast, Station KCMO - The Story
of Barum Gur
- Wed., " 14, 8:00 - Auditorium - Lecture - Paintings acquired
Since Opening - Harold W. Parsons
- Wed., " 14, 11:00 - Library - Friends of Art Study Class
- Thurs., " 15, - Last day for Camera Contest entries.
- Sun., " 18, 3:30 - Auditorium - Concert - Sigma Alpha Iota
- Wed., " 21, - No evening lecture - Gallery open 7 to 10 p.m..
- Sun., " 25 - Christmas Day - Gallery Closed All Day
- Wed., " 28, 11:00 - Library - Friends of Art Study Class
- Wed., " 28 - No evening lecture - Gallery open 7 to 10 p.m.

William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art
Kansas City, Missouri

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